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# Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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# Systematic Torture and Medical Negligence of Detainees in Bahrain*

**Introduction**

In Bahrain, there have been continuous testimonies of detainees about physical, psychological abuse and torture, as well as the authorities' prohibition of victims from appropriate medical treatmentand rehabilitation.

SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights monitored more than 50 cases of abuse against a number of political detainees and human rights activists,committed by security authorities in Bahrainduring April 2018. Four detainees were subjected to various forms of torture, and 32 detainees were reportedly ill-treated, ranging from being depriving from attending funerals of their relatives, denial of visits, solitary confinement, denial of calls, and sport exercises, exit to the yard, and a ban on drinking water.

**Continuous Torture and Mistreatment of Detainees**

A detainee called Ahmed Ali Rahdi from the village of Nuwaidrat was harshly tortured, which resulted in the injury with fractures and bruises in different parts of his body. The detainee Mohammed Ahmed Ali from the village of Abu Saiba and the detainee QasimBuhumaid from Al-Malikiya were subjected to solitary confinement while the detainee Qais Abbas from Ali village was confined for 5 hours under the hot sun after he asked the prison administration to allow him to go to the open area for exposure to the sun. Jaafar Al-Madani was denied access to call his family. In addition to these cases, prominent human rights activist and detainee in the prisons of Bahrain, Nabeel Rajab was even prevented from drinking water.

The ongoing monitoring of abuses indicates that brutal acts against political detainees and human rights activists in Bahrain are systematic, and officials of the Ministry of the Interior are aware of if not even directed by them. The detainees, even children and those with serious illnesses such as cancer, epilepsy, sclerosis, have been victims of the government's brutality. It has been also monitored that families of three of the detainees were also mistreated by security forces during raids on their homes.

**Negligence of Medical Treatment**

Not only were the security authorities and the prison administration committing serious violations. There have been continuous reports that detainees have been prevented from treatment for many periods that caused health complications. The authorities continue to delay treatment of detainees, ignoring the fact that the proper medical treatment is guaranteed by both local and international laws, as it is stipulated in the Constitution of Bahrain. In some cases, deteriorating psychological condition that resulted from torture caused several attempts of detainees to commit suicide.

During April 2018, more than 15 detainees were denied access to treatment and health care, and the authorities deliberately subjected a number of detainees to medical negligence, such as the case of detainee Yousef Mohammed Fathi from Muharraq, who was not treated and was deliberate neglected after having had a head tumor removed.

The list of prisoners who are banned from treatment and health care includes Ammar Sahwan, who is suffering from injuries caused by shotguns. Detainee Elias Al Mulla, who is suffering from cancer, and the detainee Mohamed Ahmed Ali, and Ahmed Al Qubaiti, who are wounded by shotgun fissions whom the authorities completely refuse to treat. The prominent human rights defender Nabeel Rajab was also prevented from undergoing surgery.

A number of detainees suffering from sclerosis, epilepsy and severe pain in various areas of the body such as the eye, head and teeth are subject to medical negligence and lack of health care.

Below are names of detainees subject to ill-treatment, torture and denial of treatment during April:

**Torture:**

1. Aqeel Hassan Jassem – from Al Aker village.
2. Ahmed Ali Radhi – from Nuwaidrat (he spent three months spent in the hospital of the Ministry of Interior known by Al Qaalaa since his arrest after being subjected to brutal assault caused his back injury and fractures and bruises in various body parts).

3. Hussain Ali Al-Sahlawi – from Karzakan.
4. Hussain Ali Saleh – from Abu saiba.

**Maltreatment:**

1. Hussain Juma – from Bilad Al Qadeem (deprived of attending his grandmother's funeral).
2. Sheikh Issa Al-Qafas- from Sanabis (deprived of calls for celebrating an Islamic occasion).
3. The sentenced to death Muhammad Al Mutghawi – from Al-Duraz (deprived of visits).
4. The sentenced to death Sayed Alawi Hussain Al Musawi – from Al-Duraz (deprived of visits).
5. Ahmed AbdulRasool – from Bilad Al Qadeem (deprived of calls).
6. Muhammad Ahmad Ali – from Abu saiba (solitary confinement).
7. QassemBuhameed – from Al-Malkiya (solitary confinement).
8. Brothers Hassan and Ali Abed Imam – from Abu saiba (denial of calls).
9. Ali Abdul-Zahra Salman Al-Qafas – from Al-Nuaim (deprived of attending his uncle's funeral).
10. Ali Ahmed Habib Ashoor – from Karzakan (deprived of calls).
11. Ali Hussain Al-Shaikh – from Al Daih (solitary confinement and denial of calls).
12. Sayed Mohamed Taleb – from Al Qurayya (deprived of calls and going out at the yard for for exercise).
13. The child Haidar Ibrahim Al Mulla – from Sanabis (deprived of visits).
14. Sadiq al-Banna – from Jidhafs (denied calls).
15. Qais Abbas – from A'ali (chained for 5 hours under the sun because he asked to go out in the fenced yard).
16. Rights activist Nabeel Rajab – from Bani Jamra (prevented from drinking water).
17. Mohammed Jawad Yaqoob – from Sanabis (deprived of calls).
18. Sayed Hussain Amin- from Tubli (deprived of attending his grandmother's funeral).
19. Sayed Muntadher Amin- from Tubli (deprived of attending his grandmother's funeral).
20. Ali Hussain AlShaikh – from Al Daih (solitery confienement).
21. – Sayed Redha Ali – from Abu Saiba (deprived of calls for celebrating a religious occasion).
22. Jassim Mohammed Abdullah – from Salmabad (deprived of calls for celebrating a religious occasion).
23. Emad Al-Oraibi – from Musalla (denial of calls).
24. Abbas Sawar – from Musalla (denial of calls)
25. Ali Al Sakran – from Musalla (denial of calls).
26. Sayed Kadhem Al-Musawi – from Musalla (denial of calls).
27. Sami Al Otaish- from Musalla (denial of calls).
28. Muhammad Jawad – from Musalla (denial of calls).
29. Qassim Al-Mansi – from Al-Bilad Al-Qadim (denial of calls).
30. Jawad Kadhme – from A'ali (deprived of attending his grandmother's funeral).
31. Jassem Mohammed Rashed Al-Rashed – from Demestan (deprived from attending his grandmother's funeral).
32. The Child Jaafar Al-Madani -from Al Duraz (denial of calls).

**Denial of treatment:**

1. Ammar Sahwan – from Muqaba (injured by shotguns).
2. Yousef Mohammed Fathi – from al-Muharraq (who underwent an operation to remove a tumor in the head and was not treated and was neglected).
3. Elias Al Mulla – from Sitra (cancer).
4. Human rights defender Nabeel Rajab – from Bani Jamra (deprived from a surgery).
5. Mohammed Ahmed Ali – from Abu Saiba (wounded by a shotgun and the authorities refuse to treat him).
6. Mohammed Al-Aamer – from A'ali (has skin condition and does not receive his medicines).
7. Mohammed Hamid al-Daqqaq – from Karbabad (suffering from sclerosis and the prison administration ignore to transfer him to see the doctor).
8. Hussain Ali Mohammed – from Karzakan (suffering from severe pain in his teeth).
9. YunusHadher – from Al Duraz (subjected to epileptic seizures and prison administration ignore his conditions).
10. Ahmad al-Qubaiti – Abu Saiba (injured by a shotgun).
11. Ayoob Adel – from Muharraq (wounded with a broken leg with metal installations).
12. Mohammed Hamid Al-Daqqaq – from Karababad (infected with severe sclerosis).

13. Haider Mulla – from Al Duraz (has a broken nose and hearing impairment).
14. Jaafar Aqil Al Madani – from Al Duraz (infected with scabies).
15. Hussain al-Marri – from Bori (suffering from severe pain in his eyes).
16. Osama al-Saghir – from Abu Saiba (suffering severe pain in the head and hand as a result of a shotgun injury on the day of the crackdown in front of the house of Sheikh Issa Qasim in Duraz, from a distance of about a meter).
17. Sayed Hashim Alabbar – from Manama (suffering from Severe Acute Sclerosis and needs special care).

**Recommendations**

To the government of Bahrain:

- Immediately stop the use of torture as a policy to extract confessions and to spread fear and intimidation among people;
- Immediately, impartially and transparently investigate the allegations of torture against dozens of officers in the National Security Agency NSA who are involved in torture and other human rights violations;
- Hold accountable any person found guilty of committing, or supervising the crimes of torture in a fair trial in accordance with international standards;
- Compensation and reparation for victims of torture and the establishment of a rehabilitation center for victims of torture;
- End the culture of impunity governing the police forces and carry out comprehensive reforms to ensure transparency and legal accountability;
- Signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in order to enhance the legal accountability of perpetrators of torture offenses;
- Respect for article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulate that no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- End the practice of enforced disappearance, incommunicado detention and arbitrary detention;
- Allow the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit Bahrain urgently and allow him to work freely and meet the victims unconditionally.

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*Salam For Democracy and Human Rights, NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.